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FROM : Chief of Station, Germany

DATE: 10 JUL 56  
INFO: EE

SUBJECT: GENERAL— Operational/REDWOOD/LCIMPROVE/AELIBEL  
SPECIFIC— Organizational Structure of the OUN and Acceptance of Members  
REF: EGMA-18413, 15 Dec 55

Forwarded herewith is the attachment to reference. We regret the delay in transmitting this document.

APPROVED: HBA

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74-124-29/3  
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1 att.  
FORM NO 51-28A  
MAR. 1949  
Logged W/3 4

L.S.

13 December 1955

Subject: Some information concerning the organizational structure of the OUN  
and method of admitting new members to the OUN

Source of Information: Personal organizational experience

The Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists since its founding, that is, since 1930, until World War II and partly even during the war had been an elite organization rather than one of mass membership.

The elite quality of the organization was due to many factors, but principally to the following:

- a) The teaching of Dr. Dmytro Dontsov, the ideologist of the nationalist movement, attached great importance to the leaders and disregarded the masses. The leaders were there to give orders and the masses were there to carry these orders out. The OUN in Dontsov's conception was the hub of the nation -- its leadership. Hence all members of the OUN had to be leaders of the nation.
- b) The very nature of the OUN as an underground organization, constantly pursued by Polish and Bolshevik political workers [chynnyky, in Ukrainian], mainly on Ukrainian soil, required that its members exhibit the best moral qualities, firmness of character, knowledge of the principles of conspiracy, courage, cautiousness, etc.
- c) Exemplariness: every member of the OUN had to serve as an example for hundreds, even thousands, of other citizens.

It is obvious that the rearing of OUN members with these traits of character required a long period of time and a vital test. Only one who successfully passed this vital test could count upon becoming a genuine member of the OUN.

To that end the OUN Directorate [Provid], as long ago as the time of the organization's founding, decided that there should be two grades of

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OUN membership, to wit: OUN Youth [Yunatstvo] and OUN members.

OUN Youth was the preparatory stage before becoming a regular member of the OUN. It was an institution in itself.

Under the OUN Regional Executives [Kraevi Ekzekutyvy] there were Youth Officers [Referenty Yunatstva]. These Youth Officers had at their disposal a number of the best members of the OUN, who constituted the so-called Youth Instructor Cadres [Instruktors'ki Kadry]. Their task was to select from among the best OUN youths several individuals who, in turn, constituted the Directorate of Youth Groups. The latter were Youths themselves, but the best of the Youths.

The Youth Directorate selected for itself, again, the best youth for its multi-faceted training. For greater detail see chart.

The OUN Youth was recruited from secondary-school youths aged 14 to 18, and trade and working youth was also recruited from among young trade apprentices and young workers.

The normal training period in the Youth lasted four years. For some members it was somewhat shorter, but I am speaking here of the general practise. For example, high school [gymnasium] students who had entered the fifth class were drawn into the OUN Youth. Until they completed the eighth class they were youths. During these four years they studied nationalist philosophy, mastered the principles of conspiracy, underwent political and military training, learned the "Decalogue," conducted investigations of cases [perevodyly vpravy v slidzhennyyu], composed political reports, etc. Youth instructors, elders, or senior OUN members had strict control over all this.

The youths were organized into small groups of three to five persons. They knew only these persons and no one else. When, during this training period, it became evident that a person was unfit for this work, he was dismissed from the Youth and he departed.

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On the other hand, all those who successfully completed their training in the Youth became members of the OUN approximately as soon as they reached their 18th birthday (sometimes even sooner).

Admittance to the OUN was performed in a different manner in different localities, for the most part, in a solemn manner. Members were admitted either singly or in groups, for instance, a trio or quintet which had undergone training together during the years. Attending this admission, in addition to the leader of the trio or quintet, was the instructor (hence, already an OUN member), and sometimes either the Youth Officer under the Regional Executive, himself, or his authorized representative.

As a rule, the Youth instructor directed the attention of young candidates for membership in the OUN once again upon all the hardships that were acquired with affiliation with the OUN. He emphasized that OUN members were obliged to carry out all orders of the OUN, even those which might require forfeiture of the life of the OUN member. OUN members were liable to imprisonment, persecution, beatings by the enemy police, concentration camps, etc.

He called upon every one individually to think over the matter once more and if anyone did not have enough force to undertake these heavy obligations, he should say so. He would then serve in the legal sector of the OUN, which did not require so much sacrifice.

Cases were only rare in which someone would refuse to become a regular member of the OUN.

When all candidates declared that they were cognizant of all these difficulties but desired, nevertheless, to become OUN members, there ensued the solemn oath, that is, the swearing-in of new OUN members.

The oath was taken, for the most part, over a pistol.

The instructor or representative of the Youth/<sup>Officer</sup> lay the pistol on a table and each candidate for membership in the OUN repeated the words

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"I, (here appeared the pseudonym of the candidate, which, for the most part, was different from the one used during the youth training period), swear to Almighty God and to the Ukrainian Nation that under all circumstances I shall honorably and conscientiously carry out the duties which I have assumed as a member of the OUN. I shall execute all the orders of my superiors, even those which would require of me the sacrifice of my life. Neither under terror nor fear will I betray the secrets of the OUN. The fallen heroes of the Ukrainian national revolution will serve me as an example. So help me God. Amen! "

Sometimes the text varied slightly; that depended upon the imagination of the individual instructors.

Thereupon all members of the OUN received a cover-name [klychka] <sup>later</sup> and were/assigned with this name to the various OUN branches, where they made the acquaintance of their new comrades. Like before, however, they knew only three or five persons.

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Organizational Chart of the Structure of the OUN Youth

Regional Executive and Its Officers [Referenty]

